APRIL 1996

# LEYS NEWS

## RECEPTION AT THE FARMHOUSE

The reception is open from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. - Monday to Friday.

## TENANTS HOUSING SURGERIES

Ealing Family Housing Association:- Rhiannon Jones, Tuesdays & Thursdays - 9 a.m. until 12 p.m.

Oxford Citizens Housing Association:- Cheryl Lipwick, Tuesdays - 1.30 p.m. until 5 p.m.

Cherwell Housing Trust:- Norma Farr & Emma Largey, Last Thursday of Every month - 2 p.m. until 5 p.m.

## TENANT PARTICIPATION WORKER - YOUR CHANCE TO GET INVOLVED

A tenant participation worker is now in post. Her name is Wendy Spray. Her job is to work with residents in the whole of the new Blackbird Leys area, encouraging people to get involved in the management and development of new Blackbird Leys and in the running of the Farmstead community facilities. If you are at all interested, contact Wendy on 712244 or call into Ealing Family Reception. Wendy works three days per week, she will try to be available in the office on Tuesdays - 9.30 a.m. until 12.30 p.m. & 1.30 until 4.30 p.m. If Wendy is unobtainable you can leave a message and she will get in touch with you.

## CARETAKER

Our Community caretaker is Ken Cook. Ken should only be contacted at his home in the event of a major crisis only, otherwise he can be contacted during office hours on his mobile number 0378 - 936296

## LITTER

As the Council are not yet responsible for road sweeping and litter collection around the communal areas of the estate, we would therefore ask you all to play a part in keeping your area clean and to dispose of litter in the correct manner. For large items that are not so easy to dispose of, e.g. fridges, sofas, mattresses, etc., the council will collect free of charge for you. Ring them on 725912.

## JOBS !! JOBS !! JOBS !!

Ealing Family Housing Association is advertising a number of jobs including an enquiries officer to be their receptionist. Look for the adverts in the Oxford Times on Friday 29th March or call in at the Ealing Family Office for further details.

## NEIGHBOUR NOISE PROBLEMS

Noise from neighbours is a common source of nuisance, and for some people it can be very upsetting. The main problems are caused by barking dogs, loud music or T.V., shouting, banging .

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Firstly you should approach your neighbour and explain politely that you are being troubled by the noise. Although you may find this difficult it is surprising how often neighbours are unaware of the unhappiness they are causing. Most will be glad to do what they can to reduce the noise and may even thank you for letting them know.

If your neighbour continues to cause a nuisance you should write to them explaining about the effect the noise is having up on you. In the letter ask them to stop making a noise nuisance, referring to any conversations you may have had and what, if anything, he or she agreed to do about it. Keep a copy of the letter. Start a diary recording the dates and times of any noise nuisance, what the noise was, the effects it has on you, and keep a record of any conversations you have or letters you write.

If an informal approach to your neighbour has not improved the situation, you can make a formal complaint to the Environmental Health Department under the provisions of Section 80 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

If a statutory nuisance exists, the Council will serve an abatement notice requiring your neighbour to stop the nuisance. A person who, without reasonable excuse fails to comply with a notice can be prosecuted in the Magistrates Court that can lead onto conviction or a fine of up to £2,000.

Remember that no house or flat is totally soundproof - everyone can expect a degree of noise from neighbours.

**IF YOU REQUIRE FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ON OXFORD 252552 OR 252557**

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We are hoping to establish a number of neighbourhood watch schemes in the area to combat crime and would be grateful to hear from anyone who is interested in taking part. Please contact your housing officer for more information.

**THIS IS YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD SO WATCH IT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

## BLACKBIRD LEYS CITY FARM

The City Farm Management Committee are seeking volunteers to sit on the Management Committee and also for persons to help with the development of the farm. If you are interested in helping contact Ken Cook on 712244

## MOSAIC ART PROJECT

Volunteers are needed to help with the project. Experience is not essential as there will be free tuition, 3 hours a week - for 8 weeks starting in April. The aim, with many participating local school is to make mosaic panels and squares that will be fitted to pillars during the summer throughout Blackbird Leys.

If you are interested in helping, please phone Celia Ward - 776640 or Clare Goodall - 201557.

## BLACKBIRD LEYS BARN

The Barn is a community facility that everyone may use. The Barn is available for hire for disco's, weddings, dances, etc.

For further information call into Ealing Family Housing Association reception.

### BARN EVENTS

| | |
|---|---|
| Flex & Stretch<br>£2.00 per session | Tuesdays 6 p.m.-7.30 p.m.<br>Fridays 7.30 p.m.- 8.30 p.m. |
| Karate Club<br>£2.00 per session | Tuesdays 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.<br>Saturday 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.<br>Age 5-12 |

## DOVECOTE CENTRE

The Dovecote Centre is a purpose built under eights facility on the new part of Blackbird Leys.

There are two separate play areas in the centre - a 'Yellow' room and a 'Green' room. Shepherds Hill Playgroup occupy the yellow room and the green room is a base for a variety services and initiatives for children under 8, to help families and to support children in need. This is to be achieved with local residents to promote 'self-help' initiatives.

### GROUPS ESTABLISHED IN DOVECOTE

**Wednesday** 12 - 2 p.m.: New Ol' Leys Lunch Club
All ages welcome

**Wednesday** 12 - 2 p.m.: Credit Union Collection

**Thursday** 10 am - 11.30 am: Carer & Toddler Group

**Thursday** 3.15 p.m. - 4.45 p.m.: After School Club
Ages 5 -12

**Friday** 9.30 - 1.30: Oxfords Women's Training
DIY Classes
Crèche facility available.

**Easter Playscheme** 9th April - 12 April: 10 am - 4 p.m., £2.00 per day - Ages 5 -12

**Summer Playscheme** to run for 4 weeks in July/Aug - 5 days per week - £2.00 per day - Ages 5 - 12

**Art Project Training sessions:** 16th April 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. & every Tuesday until 4th June.

**Other groups using the Dovecote include PEEP & Family Nurturing Network**

### OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN DOVECOTE

* Items for sale/local services notice board - 10 p per week to advertise
* Training information & advice
* Special events notice board
* The green room is also available to hire at weekends and evenings for children's parties, meetings, training events, etc.

This centre is a community facility that needs your support & input.

If you have any ideas for groups, concerns or want to become involved in the running of the centre - **please contact us now!!**

### THE WORKERS

**Centre Worker: Carol Baxter:** The role of the Centre Development worker is to work with local people and organisations to establish activities within the centre for under 8's and their families on the estate. This also involves providing on-going support and advice to these group.

**Outreach worker: Joanne Smith:** This role involves facilitating the intellectual, emotional and social development of preschool children in Blackbird Leys and also extending the opportunities for training and personal fulfilment available to members of their family.

### WORK CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN

Under five's report relating to Nursery and Playgroup provision and the impending introduction of the voucher scheme; helping organise the under 8's fair; work with several playgroup committee's on the estate.

Office Hours: Monday - Wednesday 9 am - 2.30 p.m.
&
Thursday 2 hours only

(The Outreach Worker may be available outside of these hours)

Telephone: (01865) 712299 answer phone available.

## EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT WORKER

Cynthia Fine is your Women's Education Development Worker for Blackbird Leys/Cowley. If you would like information on courses or if you would like to see a particular course develop, please ring Cynthia on Oxford 741317 or 773625.

## BUILDING MAINTENANCE SKILLS COURSE

Calling all unemployed, unskilled, part- skilled, semi-skilled construction workers. A course is running for 16 weeks and 12 week placement in Blackbird Leys; covering all aspects of building maintenance.

Contact David Lamb or Harry Staff on Oxford 716302, Mowlem Training/Oxfordshire Co-operative Development Agency.

## FUTURE EVENTS

DIY and Furniture making to be announced. If your interested in helping/taking part contact Ken on 712244.

## KINGFISHER SHOP

Some interest has been shown in running the shop at Kingfisher Green and hopefully it will be open soon.

## NEWSLETTER

This newsletter if for residents of Blackbird Leys, Please get involved. If you wish to advertise items for sale, articles you wish to be included, monthly recipes, competitions - please let us know.

If you wish to be involved in this newsletter, please contact Carol Baxter or Joanne Smith on Oxford 712299.

Newsletter produced by The Dovecote in association with the Housing Associations

## ABLE Open Learning Centre

The Centre is in the library at Oxford College (Blackbird Leys site). It is open free of charge to adults (over 16) living in Oxfordshire, and helps students to improve their

- English and study skills
- Maths and
- Basic computer skills

Each student works independently on their own work programme. You can start at any time, and come as often as you like. There is a college nursery on site.

Why not come and see us?
Contact us on Oxford 776334 or drop in to arrange an appointment.

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL Community Education LEARNING FOR LIFE

ABLE Open Learning Centre
Oxford College Campus
Blackbird Leys Precinct
OXFORD OX4 5HN

## RAINBOW PLAYGROUP

**Monday - Friday**
**9.15 - 11.45 am**

Rainbow Playgroup is situated in a classroom within Windale School, we have been there since it opened in September 1995 but are currently looking for our own permanent premises in the area. We operate 5 mornings per week and take children aged 3 - 5 years. Names can be put on the waiting list from 1 year. We have 2 qualified Play Leaders and are currently looking for an assistant. Rainbow Playgroup is a registered charity & is managed by a parent run committee, so we encourage parents to get involved with the Playgroup as much as possible.

**For more information please contact: Mrs Becky Morgan Tel. 778921**

## SHEPHERDS HILL PLAYGROUP
### The Dovecote Centre

Hours Open : 9.30 - 11.30 Mon - Fri
12.45 - 2.45 Mon, Weds, Thurs

50 children can enjoy the play & learning facilities provided in the Yellow room. The Playgroup is for children 2 ½ - 5 years, but priority is given to 3 - 5 years. Further information & a form for the waiting list can be obtained from Supervisor Mary Berger.

**Tel. Oxford 779504 or call in & see us. Volunteers help always welcome.**

## UNDER EIGHTS FAIR

- SATURDAY 20TH APRIL 1996
- BLACKBIRD LEYS LEISURE CENTRE
- 11 AM ~ 2 PM

Loads of Activities & Great Fun!
All welcome!

## THE DOVECOTE TODDLER GROUP

Thursday 10 ~ 11.30 am

50p entrance ~ refreshments included
loads of toys etc.
All welcome!

## peep

**. . . HELPING PARENTS TO GIVE THEIR CHILDREN A FLYING START.**

**Do you have a baby? a toddler? a child under 3?**

Your free weekly PEEP Group can help you give your child a flying start in learning.

Like to know more?

Make sure PEEP knows you are here. Tell the Shepherd's Hill Playgroup, in the Dovecote; or the Rainbow Playgroup or the PEEP Centre, at Windale School.

# YOUR ESTATE - YOUR COMMUNITY FACILITIES

## WE NEED YOU TO HELP RUN THEM WELL

### 1. Tenants & Resident's Association

We would like to see tenants and resident's associations set up wherever there are enough people interested. This is a way that tenants and residents can influence how the estate is managed by the housing associations and get to know each other.

### 2. Estate Forum

We are setting up a committee of residents and housing association representatives to draw up an estate management agreement which will set out common policies for all the Housing Associations on the delivery of common estate services, e.g. caretaking and cleaning, neighbourhood nuisance and harassment.

### 3. Farmstead Management Committee

This has had one meeting so far, but there is plenty of space for more people to get involved. The committee is needed to run the community facilities at the Barn and the Dovecote. They are lovely buildings with lots going on already. Come and see what is here and get involved in planning their use. Next meeting **Thursday 18th April 6.30-8 p.m.** - **Free** crèche in the Dovecote.

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. I am interested in a tenants and residents association | Yes | No |
| 2. I am interested in the Estate Forum | Yes | No |
| 3. I am interested in the Farmstead Management Committee | Yes | No |
| I can come to the meeting on Thursday 18th April | Yes | No |
| I will need a place in crèche | Yes | No |

**Please circle where appropriate**

Please phone **712244** for more information or return this slip by Friday the 12th April to - Wendy Spray, Tenant Participation Worker, Ealing Family Housing Association, The Farmhouse, Nightingale Avenue, Blackbird Leys, Oxford OX4 5BU

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE